

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marfa Sector Seizes Over 3,000 Pounds Of Marijuana Sierra Blanca Agents Nab 18-wheeler Load

Marfa, Texas – Agents of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection’s Marfa Sector, U.S. Border Patrol seized 3,093 pounds of marijuana Tuesday morning.

About 7:45 a.m. Tuesday morning, agents of the Marfa Sector’s Sierra Blanca Station stopped a Kenworth tractor-trailer for an immigration check at the station’s checkpoint on Interstate 10. The driver, a citizen of Jamaica, was a resident alien legally in the United States. Due to his nervous behavior, a secondary inspection of the tractor-trailer was performed for a more detailed check of the trailer.

In addition to some household items, agents discovered 72 cardboard boxes containing 3,093 pounds of marijuana valued at \$2,474,000. The driver claimed he had been hired by a “friend” to transport some very expensive China from Phoenix, AZ to New Jersey. He was paid \$5,000.

The driver, vehicle, marijuana and money were all turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Since October 1, 2002, the Marfa Sector has seized over 60,000 pounds of Marijuana. The sector has seized over \$90 million in drugs this fiscal year.

The Border Patrol was transferred from the former INS and became a division of Customs and Border Protection on March 1, 2003. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is a new agency within the Department of Homeland Security’s Border and Transportation Security Directorate.

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